RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 23rd May, 1995
2 Jyaistha, 1917 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, *The Deputy Chairman* in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shivasamudhram Seasonal Power Scheme

*661. SHRI K. R. JAYADEVAPPA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka have repeatedly requested the Government of India for clearance of the Shivasamudhram Seasonal Power Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in clearing this scheme; and

(c) by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Project Shivasamudhram Seasonal Power Scheme (2x135 MW), located in Mysore district of Karnataka, was received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in October, 1987. It was examined by the CEA and returned to Karnataka Power Corporation Limited in October, 1988 for re-submission after resolution of the Inter-state aspects.

The clearance of the project is awaiting the resolution of the dispute between the Goernment of Karnataka and Govarnment of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. R. JAYADEVAPPA: Madam Deputy Chairperson, with due respect I submit that the answer given by the hon. Minister is not satisfactory. The country is facing acute shortage of power and that problem is more in Karnataka. Our dependence on power is so much in the sense that for each and every thing we require power. As such, the Government of Karnataka has proposed to introduce a Seasonal Power Scheme at Shivasamudhram to meet the power shortage by using the excess rain water which has in no way blocked the water flowing towards Tamil Nadu. Under such circumstances I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government would like to take to solve the long-pending issue.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Madam, the Shivasamudhram Seasonal Power Scheme is an old scheme and it involves the inter-State aspects. There is the Cauvery Water dispute and due to that, the problem is no solved in spite of the best efforts made on the part of the Government.

SHRI K. R. JAYADEVAPPA: Madam, the answer given to my first supplementary is not clear. The answer given in the second para is: "The clearance of the project is awaiting the resolution of the dispute between the Government of Karnataka and the Government of Tamil Nadu." This issue is unnecessarily linked to the Cauvery water dispute. The Government of Karnataka has urged the Cauvery Water Tribunal to issue an interim order, giving clearance to the Shivasamudhram Seasonal Power Scheme. The Tribunal has referred the matter to the Department of Power and the Ministry of Environment. When the Government of Karnataka has already referred it then what is the problem in clearing the issue? Why is the clearance delayed for the last so many years? I want to have a definite answer from the Minister.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Madam, the matter is with the Tribunal. So, the dispute is still not solved. And another thing is that the Tamil Nadu Government has specifically informed the Power Department that until and unless this dispute is solved, no step should be taken to approve the project.

SHRI K.R. JAYADEVAPPA: Madam, the water dispute is different from the power dispute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is there any time-bound programme for the Tribunal or can it go on?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): Madam, in fact, it is a very important project. In view of the acute shortage of power in the Southern States, it could be of invaluable importance. We intervened and tried to say, "In Tamil Nadu you have the Bhavani Kattalai Project and let the shivasamudhram project be finalised in Karnataka." Madam, the matter is actually pending with the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal. What we did was, the Ministry of Water Resources convened a meeting of the Chief Secretaries in January, 1990 to consider clearance of hydel schemes of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, pending a settlement of the overall river water disputes. However, the representatives of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu did not participate and only the representatives of Kerala and Pondicherry attended the meeting. In March, 1990 Tamil Nadu objected to the move to accord clearance to the Shivasamudhram Seasonal Power Scheme of Karnataka without the consent of Tamil Nadu...in other words, in the absence of an overall settlement of the Cauvery dispute. It is out of our control. It is a part of the Cauvery water dispute between different States. Until that dispute is resolved, despite our best efforts and despite the very correct contentions of the hon. Member that these are exteremely important projects for the South, which is languishing in power shortage, we are helpless.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Madam, there are about 20 power projects which are pending with the Centre. The Shivasamudhram Seasonal Power Projects is one of them. As the hon. Minister has rightly stated, since there is a dispute they are helpless in according permission to this project. Though there will be no breach of the inter-State agreement, which is binding on Karnataka, if the Karnataka Government goes ahead with the project unilaterally, yet the Government of Karnataka, as a matter of fact, as a good gesture, wants to secure the Centre's concurrence and, through it, the Tamil Nadu Government's concurrence to this project. This is a reciprocal offer of the Government of Karnataka expressing its willingness to agree to the Tamil Nadu Government's Bhawani-Kattalai project, as rightly stated by the Minister. It is in no way connected with the irrigation projects or the consumption of the water of the Cauvery river for irrigation purposes. The water which will be used in this power project will directly go down to Tamil Nadu. There is absolutely no problem. I don't think this will be decided by the Tribunal. I would like to know whether the Centre would take any measure for bringing both these Governments together to solve the problem or to get their concurrence to this project.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Madam, the Government has already tried at the Secretaries level, official level as well as Ministerial level to solve this problem. But they are not willing. I think there is a lack of willingness on both the sides.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Madam, this river dispute is as old as the river. The Centre should come out with a solution. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He says that the Karnataka Government is agreeable to that. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Assuming for a moment that all the contentions... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Assuming for a moment that all the contentions raised by him are correct, thhe crucial que tion is: How can we help when the matter is pending before the Cauvery Tribunal? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: It is connected with the irrigation projects and not with the power projects.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: But this is a part of the dispute, Madam. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: We have been hearing this stereo type answer for the past so many years. This dispute is as old as the river. (*Interruptions*).. It is the tradition of our colleagues from Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry to oppose it whenever we get something, either trains or water. They have been doing it. I don't think the Government should succumb to this. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer. He has a right to ask the question. (*Interruptions*). If you want to put any question, I will give you a chance. The question is being put to the Minister.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Madam, one thing has to be clearly understood that no scheme above Rs 100 crores can ever be implemented without the clearance of the Central Electricity Authority under the Act itself. That is number one. Number two is, as I have already stated that this is an extremely beneficial scheme both for Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and the contentions, which he is raising, are correct. We have tried to plead with Tamil Nadu. How can we give any other answer than what I am giving until the dispute is resolved by the Cauvery Tribunal? Until the dispute is resolved and both the Governments are willing to see reason, unless both the Governments are willing to show some degree of accommodation to each other, it is impossible for us to adjudicate upon an issue which is pending before a tribunal, a quasi-judicial tribunal.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How long will it take?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, that is something which the Tribunal will have to answer. (*Interruptions*)..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Hanumanthappa. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: You are interested in creating the problems, not solving the problems. That is the unfortunate thing. (*Interruptions*)....

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: We are interested in solving our problem. (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is their problem. They want to ask about it. Why should anybody object to it?

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, it is very unfortunate. The answer of the Minister says that both the parties are not interested. When they were called, both of them did not appear. That means they want to keep the issue alive for some other purpose, not for power purpose. Maybe, for political purpose. (*Interruptions*). I don't want to go further. Actually power is an important thing.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, actually we are the sufferers. That is why it was referred to the Tribunal. He is saying that there is some political motive....(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swaminathan, will you please allow the Member to put his question? It is his grievance.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: I am sorry, I have not said anything to hurt Mr. Swaminathan. Madam, when they were called for this purpose, representatives of both the Governments were absent. I am taking the burden on myself. That means they want to keep it alive for something else That may be the reason. Madam, actually, Mr. Salve is power-hungry!

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Which power?

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: I leave it to you. He is going all over the world in search of money for power projects. He also concedes that power is very important for the Southern grid. But there are 20 projects from Karnataka alone. I am sorry. I am doubtful about his power to overrule the Central Electricity Authority. This Authority has become more powerful by keeping these projects pending for centuries. Some of them are a century old and some of them are a decade old. On the one side, he is power-hungry and he is powerful also and, on the other side, he is the Power Minister. All the power of the country is in his hands. Unfortunately, he is not using that power against the Cenral Electricity Authority I would urge upon him to call a meeting and overrule the Cenral Eelectricity Authority which is only creating problems and hurdles, to quench his power-hungerness, to give him something for which he is hungry. Please use your power to rectify your Ministry and the Central Electricity Authority.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think he should give some shocks to both the people high-tension shocks.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Madam, it is very unfair to impute any kind of motive or any kind of wrong act to the Central Electricity Authority people who are not here to defend themselves. The Central Electricity Authority is a very important authority. The highest authority would administer the Act. The crucial question is, I can certainly talk to them to do something if they are doing anything wrong or I can talk to them to take action if they are inactive. Madam, the fact is their hands are tied. They are hamstrung.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: But what about other projects?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: As far as all other projects are concerned, if there is any delay from our end, let the hon. Member come to me. I will call them across the table and see that things move fast.

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Madam, whenever there is a dispute between two States, it always takes time. The question of authority is always raised. The hon. Minister wishes and desires to solve this issue. He also konws that it is very important. Madam, the last meeting of both the parties was called five years ago. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would be making some immediate efforts to call both the parties because this kind of persuasion has got to be done. Whenever there are disputes between the States they remain without a solution for years and create further difficulties as we have seen in the matter of border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Patil, we are only in Karnataka!

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Madam, there is no dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra.

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he would immediately call a meeting to find a solution for this important problem.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Our power grid is only limited to Karnataka, to this particular project it has not gone to Maharashtra. So, please confine all your questions to Karnataka and the crisis in Karnataka. It cannot extend to any other State.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Madam, in January-February, 1993 a meeting of all the Chief Secretaries was called. We are sorry to say that these meetings could not take place because of the absence of the Secretaries of both the States. However, we welcome the suggestion and we will take the suggestion in the right manner.

उपसभापति: श्री रामजी लाल। कर्नाटक के बारे म पूछिएगा।

I am not allowing anything about Haryana now. If your question is not concerned with Karnataka, you may give a notice for a fresh question.

अगर कर्नाटक के बारे में आपको कुछ विचार देना है तो आप शौक से दीजिए।

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Now the Minister has informed the House that only after the Tribunal gives its verdict, he could do something on the question, particularly the Sivasamudhram Seasonal Power Scheme. He could go through that question only after that. In the same manner, they are dealing with the Cauvery issue also. When they have not approved and executed .. (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put a question.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: When they have not approved and executed the interim order passed by the Tribunal, we cannot rely on the Government of Karnataka because our experience shows that there are many dams constructed. .(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't give explanation. It is the Minister's duty. Please put your question. Otherwise, I will go to the other question.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: So many dams are constructed... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, Question No. 662

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Therefore, I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister that this particular project would be taken up only after the Karnataka Government accepts and executes the interim order as well as the final order that is going to be pronounced by the Cauvery Tribunal. That only I want from the Minister.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Madam, this is a wrong impression that without the permission of the Central Government, power projects are going on. The clearance by the Central Electricity Authority is a must for all the projects.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Dams are constructed in Karnataka without the Central clearance...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Jagesh Desai.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Madam, as far as power is concerned, I am of the opinion that it should be brought from anywhere. Even foreign companies are coming forward to generate power. We must accept it if the terms are...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: It does not relate to Karnataka...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I am asking a question about Karnataka (*Interruptions*)... Five Corporations have shown interest in five projects in Karnataka. I would like to know whether the interest has remained as interest only or any progress has been made in those five projects. One of the companies is Asia Power Company with a capacity of 600 MWs. Like that, there are five Companies. The total projected capacity is 2,840 MW at a cost of eleven (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, the question does not... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: The question I am asking is relating to Karnataka. I would like to know whether any further progress has been made in the matter. If not, what is the Government going to do to induce them so that those people come here and set up the power plants in Karnataka?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Madam, I would like to say that expressions of interest by private promoters have been received by us for 28 projects with an envisaged capacity of 5,495 MW and they are at different levels. Some are at leading levels and in

some cases MoUs are signed. For detailed information, I will require time.

Share Capital2 of ITD

*662. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the present share capital of ITDC:

(b) who owns more than one per cent shares of ITDC as on date:

(c) how many ITDC shares were sold; the details thereof including the number of shares, total amount received, the price of the shares at which they were sold in the past:

(d) whether there is any proposal to offer ITDC shares to its employees;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any proposal for ITDC to sell its shares to financial institutions like UTI, GIC LIC, banks mutual funds etc; if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Government will utilise the amount thus raised to renovate hotels like Ranjit; and

(h) how much funds were earmarked and spent for renovation of Ranjit hotel during the last three years, year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (DEPTT. OF TOURISM) (SMT. SUKHBANS KAUR): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The present share capital of ITDC is Rs. 67.5194 crores.

(b) and (c) As on date. the entire equity of ITDC is held by Government of India. In Jan., 1995, 67,51,000 shares of Rs. 10 each of ITDC were sold at a total price of Rs. 51,98,50,175. The shares certificates are however yet to be transferred to the successful biders. The average realisation for a share of Rs. 10 was Rs. 77.

(d) and (e) The proposal to offer shares to ITDC employees is under consideration. The modalities are being worked out.

(f) If an when Government undertakes further disinvestment an opportunity will be provided to all those eligible to hold shares in India to apply for Government shares.

(g) No, Sir. The proceeds of Disinvestment (if any), are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

(h) The details of plan allocation and actual expenditure on renovation of Ranjit Hotel during the last three years are given below:—

(Rs. in l

Year	Approved Plan Allocation	Actl Expenditur
1992-93	—	—
1993-94	6·00	4 41
1994-95 (prov.)	10.00	3.18

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, Deputy Chairman, the hon. Minister in her statement has informed that in January, 1995, 67.51,000 shares of Rs. 10/- each of ITDC were sold Madam, I would like to know from the hon Minister whether it is a fact that the ITDC has sold 10,000 shares to the Indian Tobacco Company. If so, for what reasons they have sold shares to a hotel which is a rival group in this field, a big monopoly house. There is already a fear that you are trying to sell out some of the ITDC hotels to multinationals and big monopoly houses. I would like to have a clear answer from the Minister in this regard.

SHRIMATI SUKHBANS KAUR: Madam, according to the Economic Policy of the Government, 10 per cent shares of the ITDC were sold, but they were sold by the Ministry of Finance. I am